London Mission

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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The Fund was Created and established in November 2010 by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Children's Life Fund's aegis is to provide urgent relief for children, assisting those who live in the shadow of disease and illness. The Fund has also received support from the renewed charity medical Schriners Children's Hospital. In addition, all Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament contribute 5% of their salary to the Fund.

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For more information on The Children's Life Fund please visit *www.clfa.org.tt*

REPUBLIC DAY GREETINGS FROM HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT ANTHONY CARMONA

Fellow citizens of this blessed Republic, good evening.

Tomorrow, we celebrate the thirty-seventh anniversary of Republic Day and if we are honest, we will admit that, in the minds of many of us, there exists some uncertainty and ambivalence about the significance of this day and about the benefits of being a Republic. Many may ask, "What exactly are we celebrating? What have we gained by becoming a Republic as opposed to remaining an Independent nation? What is the real difference between Independence Day and Republic Day?"

When our nation achieved its independence in 1962, power was transferred from the British crown to the people of Trinidad and Tobago as then Governor, Sir Solomon Hochoy and Premier, Dr. Eric Williams became our first Governor-General and Prime Minister, respectively. As an Independent nation, we now had, inter alia, our own national emblems and symbols, an Independence Constitution and Defence Force. Nonetheless, the British Monarchy reigned, as Her Majesty the Queen remained the ceremonial Head of State and by extension, Queen of Trinidad and Tobago. We, therefore, still owed allegiance to her. Additionally, the Privy Council remained the highest appellate court. Regrettably, in this area we have yet to achieve full judicial independence.

It was not until Trinidad and Tobago became a Republic, fourteen years later, that we no longer owed allegiance to the Queen but now possessed the

His Excellency Anthony Carmona, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

right to choose our own Head of State, an elected President sworn to uphold a new and indigenously drafted Republican Constitution. On August 1st 1976, we therefore gained total control of our own destiny as a sovereign nation among the Commonwealth of Nations.

Perhaps the key difference between Independence Day and Republic Day is that Independence Day commemorates the road to freedom from colonial rule – which in our case was a relatively peaceful one – while Republic Day celebrates our achievements born out of our thirst for self-governance and the desire to determine our future. Independence Day celebrates the birth of our nation but Republic Day celebrates our adulthood, our coming of age.

Tomorrow, as we commemorate Republic Day, we have every reason to be proud of these past thirty-seven years of self-determination. Our willingness to take full responsibility for our country's future required great bravery, and history will show us to be a courageous people. Admittedly, we have made mistakes, our own mistakes, but maturity is often born out of mistakes both made and learned from. On the other hand, we have also had great successes and have experienced the exhilaration of taking full ownership of those victories. Even a fleeting comparison of our nation with other nations that have histories as short as ours, ought to serve as an encouraging reminder to us of how relatively well we have done as a nation, holding our own, creating and maintaining a vibrant and peaceful democracy where many larger and older nations have failed to so do.

Fellow citizens, in a little over half a century, we have progressed from a colony to an independent nation and finally, a young Republic. No longer are we striving as a people for the right to self-governance. This we have already achieved and we have become accustomed to governing ourselves. However, there is a need to rededicate ourselves. We need to rededicate ourselves to striving for excellence in self-governance. It is imperative that we also rededicate ourselves to our national watchwords of Discipline, Production and Tolerance, given to us over half a century ago.

By infusing new life into these watchwords, our nation can regain its sense of humanity. A return to tolerance will make us a more understanding people. A return to discipline will help us to appreciate the need to engage standards. A return to production will result in a greater sense of fulfilment of the dreams and aspirations

of all members of our society. Indeed, these are the keys to our upliftment as a nation.

As this Republic approaches middle-age, I encourage all citizens, by your individual contributions, to collectively reflect the maturity of a more productive, more disciplined, more tolerant and a more caring Trinidad and Tobago.

Before closing, I wish to join with the family, friends and fans of the "The Birdie", "The Calypso King of the World", Dr. Slinger Francisco, "The Mighty Sparrow", in wishing him a complete and speedy recovery. As all of South Africa rallied around former President Nelson Mandela within recent months, so too I have seen and heard countless citizens and fans in the Caribbean and worldwide on 'Sparrow-watch', rallying around this cultural ambassador par excellence, who has become an indelible part of our national identity. The nation's prayers are with you, Dr. Slinger Francisco.

Finally, on behalf of my family and on my own behalf, I wish all citizens, both here and abroad, a Happy Republic Day 2013.

May God continue to richly bless our beloved Republic. Thank you.

HIS EXCELLENCY ANTHONY THOMAS AQUINAS CARMONA S.C.

Above: *The Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.*

51ST ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE STATEMENT FROM PRIME MINISTER KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR

My Dear Citizens,

Just over three years ago, you took the bold step to elect me as this country's sixth Prime Minister and I remain very humbled by your support to become the first woman elected as Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

When I took up the mantle to serve the people, there was great expectation that so many of our nation's ills would be swept away almost immediately.

Three years later, the expectations remain and despite all that your government has done, there is a sense among all that there is still so much more to do.

I know our nationals abroad are looking on with keen interest at what goes on at home. I have them in my prayers, and I always look forward to meeting with them during my hectic international travels.

I know they will be concerned at the levels of crime affecting our beautiful nation, but I assure them, my government is ready for battle. This is a war we must win, and we will win!

I recognize that the juncture of midterm in office is never easy for any government as we are caught between what we have been putting in place to effect lasting meaningful changes and the time for the results of those efforts to be seen.

Midterm administrations around the world are so challenged and we are no different. We need look only to our huge northern neighbor in the United States to witness the midterm frustration and the end of term renewal of the American people in the current administration.

There can be no denying that this is not May 2010. There can be no expectation either that it could ever be. But between now and then it is critical for us to see where we have traversed, what gains, what losses, which ways gone wrong, what paths taken right.

And to do this, we must Go Back To Start, the point at which It all began, this movement of change that you started. This has always been Your Movement, Your Change, Your Revolution which all began on the cusp of our nation's 50th anniversary just over three and half years ago.

Today as I reflect on the journey of our nation 51 years ago, I celebrate with you the glorious achievements and contributions of our small great nation in so many endeavours. ▸▸

We have so much to be proud about. May we use the rekindling of these memories as a proud reminder on this nation's ability to rise above any of the challenges such as those we currently face.

I am keenly aware that many of you are awaiting further evidence of the Faith you reposed in us just over three years. And there is a strong need for stocktaking of our stewardship over the past few years.

And that process which has been taking place in some form over time now begins in earnest and in specific, measurable ways.

I will be personally undertaking A National Conversation with stakeholders across the length and breadth of this nation.

I will invite the heads of religious organisations, NGOs, who serve the nation so generously and abundantly and whose work touches the lives of so many in significant ways, I will convene discussions with youth groups, I will also open dialogue with opposition groups should they agree to enjoin the National Conversation.

Even as our nation commemorates its 51st Anniversary I have the privilege bestowed by you to lead the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago into a new era filled with the same positive expectations ushered in a few years ago.

I see part of this huge responsibility as having the demonstrated capacity to listen.

And so this National Conversation will occur between me and all stakeholders. I will listen to every community leader, each business group and labour representative, but I will humbly ask also that my own message and vision be heard so that together we can arrive at the best solutions and find common purpose for the greater good of all.

We will not falter, nor lose sight of what we started out to create together. We will rise to the occasion. The job of leading this nation as Prime Minister requires that I also follow your views, your ideas, your sense of what needs to be done.

Our National Conversation begins this process now. Together, we are the nation's best and only hope for a future that realises all our noblest aspirations.

Together, we are the best and only possibility for an accommodation with all interest groups that sincerely work for the benefit of everyone.

We have witnessed sweeping changes in this country, the least of which is not the idea that people power is greater than anything else. It is now for us to listen and respond appropriately. And that is precisely what I intend to do.

I take this opportunity of our nation's 51st Anniversary to introduce The National Conversation that will include a Forum for the populace at large through which views can be exchanged; it will include a website, even a hotline that allows callers to register their opinions.

I will ensure every opinion is garnered, each voice heard, and that the government you elected acts upon those opinions.

When we speak to each other across the length and breadth of Trinidad and Tobago a better understanding will emerge among all groups.

Rest assured that I am mindful of many of the sentiments expressed already, but I am equally aware of the absence of your government's own views and vision finding its way through to you. That too must change.

For the first time ever water flowed from taps, bridges connected communities, impassable dirt tracks gave way to newly paved roads.

But of course everyone wanted everything to happen in their area overnight especially since they had been neglected for so long prior to our taking office. But I understand the frustrations and the need for faster paced development.

We can do a lot more and in the coming year, I have asked my Ministers and Members of Parliament to intensify the delivery to all our citizens.

Let us seize this opportunity to make Trinidad and Tobago a much better place by always doing the right thing, by actively nurturing our pluralism, by celebrating our multiculturalism, and building the harmony which we enjoy. Our families, our children, and our communities deserve no less.

On behalf of the government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I extend sincere wishes for peace, love, and prosperity to all citizens of this blessed nation.

May Almighty God, shed His light on us and guide and protect our path, as we strive to fulfill our nation's goals and aspirations. Happy Anniversary!

INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY GARVIN NICHOLAS

Above: *His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner*

My fellow Trinbagonians,

For the past three years I have served as High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to London, a position which has imbued me with immeasurable pride. I am honoured to serve our nationals based in the United Kingdom and our European territories of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway and Sweden. It is with great pleasure that I represent our country on this international platform, as I truly believe that Trinidad and Tobago's beauty, natural resources and ingenious cultural capital make us one of the most exceptional countries in the world.

As we mark the occasion of our 51st Anniversary of Independence it is imperative that we stop and take stock of how our nation has evolved, and the path we will chart for ourselves going forward. In our 51 years as a self-determining nation, we have experienced glorious triumphs. We have produced an outstanding citizenry who have ascended to the pinnacles of their respective fields of athletics, academia and business. We have birthed world beauty queens, a Nobel Laureate, and creative geniuses. We have given the world Carnival, steel pan and calypso music. Indeed, our contribution to the global landscape is profound, proving that while we are small in size our influence is boundless.

Our extraordinary achievements make it that much more dispiriting to view the challenges we face in society today. Like many of you, I absorb the news of our country's escalating societal degeneration with a heavy heart. What we are witnessing is a shocking lack of consideration and compassion for our fellow man, two elements a society cannot live without. For too long, we have been subjected to reports of families losing their sons and daughters and those in authority failing the people who have entrusted their lives to them. It is reprehensible, and to stand idly by makes us part and parcel of the problem.

Most of us can reminisce on an idyllic childhood in Trinidad and Tobago, a time when our country epitomised the dream of an island paradise. We stood together as Trinbagonians and lived up to the vision of our forefathers which saw all creeds and races living harmoniously. Our nation was brimming with promise, and it was in our hands to mould. What kind of country will our children inherit?

To my Trinbagonians at home and abroad, I extend to you a sincere request. Together, we must wake up from our slumber and take back our country from the negative forces which threaten our harmony and solidarity. We must not allow negative elements to destroy the exceptional progress our country has made.

The significance of Independence is that a country's citizens have the power to shape their own destiny, and this is a duty you must take very seriously. Corruption and criminality can only be allowed to thrive as long as you allow it, and on this occasion of Independence it is my wish that the people of Trinidad and Tobago can look within and find the strength and courage to stand against these roadblocks to our continued development.

We are blessed to have been born nationals of Trinidad and Tobago. Our leadership in trade and business extends far beyond the Caribbean, and we are globally lauded for our wealth of creative talent and the warmth of our people. The beauty of our lands continues to captivate international visitors. Certainly, there can be no doubt that we have much to be proud of. As we embark on our 51st year as an Independent nation, we must vow to protect the land we love and steer our country back on a path our children would be honoured to tread.

I wish you all a happy Independence. May God continue to bless you and our beloved nation.

T&T HIGH COMMISSIONER PARTICIPATES IN PANEL DISCUSSIONS AT ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner, H.E. Garvin Nicholas, has issued a call for the United Kingdom to heighten its role as a direct facilitator of Commonwealth international trade expansion. This declaration was made on July 17th when the Royal Commonwealth Society hosted a conference on 'Europe and The Commonwealth' at Europe House, Smith Square in London, England.

Above: H.E. Garvin Nicholas delivers his address while YouGov President Peter Keller listens

The High Commissioner was asked to participate in a panel discussion for the conference, with Royal Commonwealth Society Director, Michael Lake, citing the High Commissioner's experience as a diplomat for Trinidad and Tobago as adding significant value to the calibre of the panel. YouGov President, Peter Keller chaired the session, and other panellists included Lord Howell of Guildford; Commonwealth Environmental Investment Platform Chair, Michal Sippitt and Geoffrey Martin, Advisor to the Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat. The focus of the panel centred on the United Kingdom's role in promoting further trade between the European Union (EU) and members of the Commonwealth.

As Trinidad and Tobago's accredited High Commissioner to the Commonwealth, Nicholas drew from a wealth of knowledge throughout the panel deliberations. He referred to the strain between the member states of the Commonwealth and the United Kingdom caused by the latter's integration with the European Union and the restrictive policies which govern the European Union's trade relations. "Fundamentally, the United Kingdom should utilise its strategic position as Head of the Commonwealth and key member of the European Union to influence stronger direct linkages between Commonwealth member countries and the European Union," stated Nicholas.

In recent times, trade between the EU and the majority of the Commonwealth has not been significant. In 2012, Trinidad and Tobago led the Caribbean members of the Commonwealth in imports to the EU market, with a share of 0.1%, a relatively notable figure considering the country's small size. The High Commissioner explained that rather than taking a direct role in spearheading enhanced trade relations between the EU and the Commonwealth, the UK had chosen to take a softer approach. He referred to the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) which established a regional programme to the Caribbean amounting to £75 million for the period 2011 – 2015.

"Among the projects operated by DFID is the Caribbean Aid for Trade and Regional Integration Trust Fund (CARTFUND), which specifically aims to help Caribbean signatory states benefit from the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)," stated the High Commissioner. "CARTFUND is focused on the development of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs), business support services and institutions, trade facilitation, legal and judicial development and Trade policy and administrative management".

Nicholas acknowledged the developmental value of the various DFID projects but emphasised his desire for the UK to further its function as a catalyst for EU – Commonwealth linkages. "These initiatives can certainly provide necessary groundwork for establishing a base for the Caribbean members of the Commonwealth to engage in improved trade relations with the EU," he stated. "It is my hope that the UK builds on these ventures and takes on a more prominent leadership role in this regard".

T&T HIGH COMMISSIONER SPEAKS AT LAUNCH OF COMMONWEALTH EXCHANGE

Above: *H.E. Garvin Nicholas is flanked by CX Directors Ralph Buckle and Tim Hewish*

On Wednesday 3rd July, His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom, spoke at the launch of Commonwealth Exchange (CX). CX is a new foundation which aims to promote a 21st Century vision for the Commonwealth to reinvigorate it along trade and educational lines.

The High Commissioner spoke alongside Lord Howell, who was the UK's Minister for the Commonwealth 2010-12, and Tim Hewish and Ralph Buckle, the Directors of CX. The audience included the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, High Commissioners, Parliamentarians, businessmen, stakeholders and supporters.

The High Commissioner commended the initiative saying he was "certain it will result in enhanced trade and educational linkages across the Commonwealth".

His Excellency also spoke of Trinidad and Tobago's "strong relations within the Commonwealth" and argued that, due to its natural resources and its strong growth, it was in "a favourable position for engaging in enhanced commercial activity within the Commonwealth."

He was keen to praise "the opportunities for inclusive partnerships for trade and investment, provided for by membership of the Commonwealth." This was a sentiment echoed by Lord Howell who described the Commonwealth as "the network par excellence that we would be crazy to ignore."

Lord Howell was also full of praise for CX, describing it as "a mighty cause, good for Britain, good for the Commonwealth Network and good for peace and stability across the planet… I see a great new page turning in this country's history. I see a new phase emerging."

The Directors went on to set out their vision for the Commonwealth, not as a relic or as a new trade bloc, but as a powerful network reaching across the globe. This network, if embraced, has the potential to raise millions out of poverty and bring education, security and prosperity to millions more.

Hewish and Buckle also presented some of the varied and exciting programmes CX wishes to run including practical exporting guides for Commonwealth SMEs, charity cricket matches at the Commonwealth Games and social action projects including scholarship schemes, book exchanges and school trips to maintain the Commonwealth War Graves.

Concluding his speech, Hewish described CX as having "the energy to drive the Commonwealth forward and set its spirit free."

Website:
http://www.commonwealth-exchange.org

Newsstand:
http://www.commonwealth-exchange.org/newsstand/

FACEBOOK:
https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthExchangeCX

Twitter:
@the_CX

HIS EXCELLENCY TALKS PEACE ON ROTARY CLUB OF LONDON PANEL

Amidst a backdrop of heightened global concern regarding ongoing civil strife in Syria, the Rotary Club of London marked the occasion of the 22nd International Day of Peace on Monday 23rd September with a panel discussion on "Peace the World Over".

Above: *H.E. Garvin Nicholas addresses the audience*

The panel of distinguished speakers featured Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner to London, His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, in addition to His Excellency Dr. Emil Brix, Austrian Ambassador; His Excellency Eldred Bethel, High Commissioner for the Bahamas and Honorary Rotarian, Reverend Gordon Warren.

Membership of the Rotary Club of London includes politicians from all major parties, numerous Ambassadors and High Commissioners, religious leaders from various faiths, and leading figures from the arts, industry, commerce and the professions.

Nicholas cited Trinidad and Tobago as a compelling example of a multifarious society which lives in relative peace. "Trinidad and Tobago was forged from distinct factions which came together to form one of the most unique societies on the face of the earth," he stated.

"I believe that at the crux of Trinbagonians' ability to live harmoniously is appreciating our common sense of purpose. The evil arises when men seek to incite division for their own gains".

The High Commissioner also used the platform to issue a call for stringent action to be taken to achieve global peace. "I challenge you all gathered here today to look closely at your own role in the perpetuation of global unrest," he declared.

"As leaders, it is imperative that we refocus on what should be our driving purpose – to create a world which is better than the one we have inherited. If we fail to try, and continue submitting to avarice, global peace will surely remain an illusory aspiration".

SEPTEMBER 2013

Foreign Exchange rates

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING	CASH
Great British Pound	10.0639	10.5771	10.31610
United States Dollar	6.4176	6.4001	6.35180
European Euro	8.3955	8.8915	8.62620
Canadian Dollar	6.1158	6.359	6.19900

3 DAY CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE AT THE MISSION

Above: *His Excellency Garvin Nicholas addresses the congregation at the High Commission's Independence Inter-Faith Service*

For Trinbagonians living abroad, the commemoration of our country's Independence presents a significant opportunity to unite with fellow nationals to celebrate their identity. From the 30th August - 1st September, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London was a hub of activity for national celebrations, as it marked the 51st Anniversary of Independence with a jubilant 3-day stretch of festivities and thanksgiving.

The celebrations kicked off on Friday 30th August when the Church of England paid tribute to Trinidad and Tobago's Independence with a special Evensong choral service at the historic Westminster Abbey. In attendance were His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, staff members of the High Commission, prominent nationals and members of the diplomatic corps. The service underscored the importance of Trinidad and Tobago to the Commonwealth and the unwavering ties between Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom.

Pictured: *C.S.I. Steel band, led by Brent Holder M.B.E. (middle) performs at the High Commissioner's Independence Diplomatic Reception*

For many, the highlight of the weekend was on Saturday 31st August when the High Commissioner hosted a diplomatic reception at his residence. The grand affair was attended by numerous representatives of the international diplomatic community, including High Commissioners from Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Columbia, and Japan, among many others. In a break from convention the High Commissioner opened the reception to nationals, who were all buzzing with excitement and anticipation for the festivities ahead. The event combined the elegance of a traditional diplomatic reception with the warmth and energy unique to Trinidad and Tobago, made apparent by the tropical setting and sumptuous red, white and black decor.

Extraordinary local talent was showcased, with a moving rendition of the national anthem performed by dramatic soprano Anne Fridal and the C.S.I. steel band, led by Brent Holder, MBE. Guests were also thrilled by performances from ▸▸

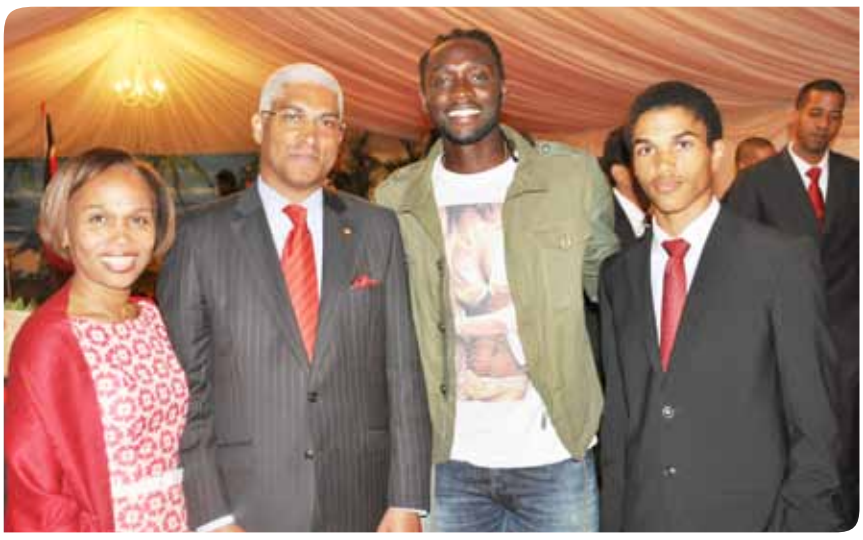
internationally acclaimed tenor Neil Latchman, who put an operatic spin on classic local tunes such as 'Nah Leaving', 'Jumbie in de Road' and 'Dingolay'. While they enjoyed Latchman's performance guests sampled delectable local cuisine such as callaloo soup, geera pork skewers and curried duck. Attendees remarked on the splendid representation of Trinidad and Tobago's culture and thoroughly enjoyed the festive atmosphere made electric by the melodies of soca, chutney and calypso music.

The celebratory weekend culminated with an Inter-Faith service held at St. Peter's Church. In an illustration of the diversity and harmony of Trinidad and Tobago, several faiths were highlighted at the service, including Christian, Orisha, Hindu and Muslim. The service was bolstered by outstanding thanksgiving performances by Trinidadian baritone Marvin Smith and the London Gospel Community Choir. Proceedings were led by Father John Metivier with the homily delivered by Father Forrester, Rector of St. Andrews, Scarborough.

It was here that the High Commissioner delivered his stirring message to nationals at home and abroad. In his address, Nicholas displayed striking candour as he called for the nation to "wake up from our slumber and take back our country from the negative forces which threaten our harmony and solidarity".

"The significance of Independence is that a country's citizens, every one of us, have the power to shape our destiny, and this is a duty we must all take very seriously," Nicholas stated. "Corruption and criminality can only be allowed to thrive as long as we allow it, and on this occasion of Independence it is my wish, in fact it is indeed my prayer, that we, the people of Trinidad and Tobago can look within and find the strength and courage to stand against these roadblocks to our continued development". The High Commissioner's ardent call to action was received with resounding applause by the congregation, signalling a profound end to a memorable Independence weekend.

Above Left: *The High Commissioner greets Tunapuna MP The Honourable Nizam Baksh;* ***Above Right:*** *Ms. Ameena Hassanali with H.E. Garvin Nicholas;* ***Below:*** *The High Commissioner, his wife Dr. Nicola Alcala and son Alexei with Stoke FC footballer Kenwyne Jones.*



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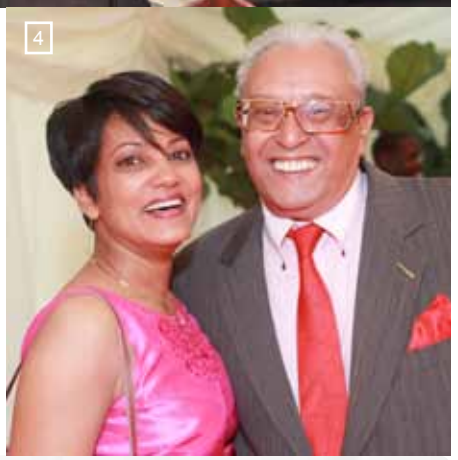
PICTURED:

1) *Miss T&T Universe 2013 Sherrece Villafana with H.E. Garvin Nicholas;* ***2)*** *Neil Latchman wows the crowd with his performance;* ***3)*** *Anne Fridal sings the National Anthem;* ***4)*** *Trade & Business Facilitator Mrs. Karen Thomas with Mr. Dexter Khan;* ***5)*** *H.E. Eldred Bethel, High Commissioner for the Bahamas with guests;* ***6)*** *H.E. Garvin Nicholas addresses the crowd;* ***7)*** *The Honourable Nizam Baksh with guests*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PICTURED:

8) *High Commissioner greets Councillor Natalie Nicholas;* ***9)*** *Mayor of Brent and other guests;* ***10)*** *Ms. Shirley Rambaran and family;* ***11)*** *Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips with Jamima Douglas, Neil Latchman and his children;* ***12)*** *Councillor Judy Best of Lambeth Council with Ms. Gillian Sealy;* ***13)*** *High Commissioner and guests enjoying the chutney music;* ***14)*** *Financial Attaché Ms. Wendy-Ann Austin with Denise Suleman;* ***15)*** *Father John Metivier and Father Kenneth Forrester enjoy the proceedings.*

Photos: Lawson Lovell, Brian Quavar

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PICTURED: ***1)*** *The London Gospel Community Choir gives a moving performance* ***2)*** *Ms. Donna Phillip-Forde, Head of Registry, bears the national flag;* ***3)*** *H.E. Garvin Nicholas addresses the congregation;* ***4)*** *Marvin Smith sings hymns of praise;* ***5)*** *Pandita Arsha Gosine delivers a reading on behalf of the Hindu community;* ***6)*** *Ms. Nickesha Smith, Second Secretary delivers a reading on behalf of the Christian community;* ***7)*** *Congregation gathers outside for refreshments;* ***8)****H.E. Garvin Nicholas greets a national;* ***9)*** *H.E. Garvin Nicholas greets a young national;* ***10)*** *The Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Team: Mrs. Beverley Awonaya, Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Ms. Bianca Beddoe and Mr. Lawson Lovell;* ***11)*** *Master Adem Zein Ghany proceeds to deliver a reading on behalf of the Muslim community.*

T&T HIGH COMMISSIONER FEATURED AT CULTURAL DIPLOMACY SYMPOSIUM, UK

"Trinidad and Tobago, like most other Small Island Developing nations, is challenged in its limited access to a wide platform on which to present our brand on an international scale. Therefore, cultural diplomacy plays an integral role in presenting our truest selves to the world". This was the central message of Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Garvin Nicholas, when he delivered the keynote address at the 2013 International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in the UK on Friday 12th July. The event took place at the Romanian Cultural Institute in London.

The theme of the day was "Cultural Diplomacy throughout the Commonwealth of Nations". Speaking from his experience as accredited Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner to the Commonwealth, Nicholas shared his insight on the importance of creating a strong brand identity and promoting identifiable aspects of a country's culture in order to foster enhanced visibility in world affairs. "A country and its people must have a clear concept of who they are and what they want to represent to the world in order to achieve a strong standing in the international arena," he stated.

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The International Symposia on Cultural Diplomacy 2013 is the world's largest event in the field of Cultural Diplomacy. Proceedings this year include large-scale events taking place in different major capital cities in cooperation with governments, leading academic institutions and civil society organizations throughout the months of May - July 2013. This year's International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in the UK brought together speakers from a diverse range of fields to debate the issues surrounding Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

The Symposium focused on effective implementation strategies for the New Charter of the Commonwealth, placing particular emphasis on the role that Cultural Diplomacy can play among the organization's members in achieving greater cooperation and collaboration, thus promoting prosperity and stability for all.

In his address, the High Commissioner also highlighted the rich culture and extraordinary diversity of Trinidad and Tobago. "Trinidad and Tobago's society consists of a unique melting pot of peoples and cultures, whose diverse backgrounds have created a harmonious fusion of creativity and ingenuity," Nicholas declared. "Centring on our Carnival, Trinidad and Tobago has carved out a distinctive niche in the global creative and cultural sphere. We are keen to position ourselves firmly in the global imagination as a rapidly developing nation with a rich heritage and a dynamically advancing economy".

Nicholas has certainly made cultural diplomacy central to his role as High Commissioner. The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission hosts regular cultural events in the UK, including last year's explosion of Trinidad and Tobago's culture at the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn, and this year's hugely successful Trinidad and Tobago exhibitions at "The World on Regent Street" and Ip-Art Festival which both drew crowds numbering in the thousands. The High Commissioner also led an envoy to Liverpool in May, where he met with the Lord Mayor and various business entities to promote trade and tourism opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago. As he noted in his address, "As diplomats, it is our utmost duty to ensure that we utilise our relationships in the international sphere to make manifest the best elements of our countries and bring a comprehensive understanding of our values and philosophies to the rest of the world".

AMBASSADOR NICHOLAS TALKS TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN GERMANY

Pictured: *H.E. Garvin Nicholas presents a model steel pan to Lord Mayor Dr. Dorothee Stapelfeldt*

In his capacity as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Garvin Nicholas embarked on a three-day official visit to the German cities of Berlin and Hamburg from September 11th to 13th, 2013.

In Berlin, Ambassador Nicholas met with Mr. Lotz, the Head of Section for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Federal Foreign Office. Ambassador Nicholas also visited the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology where he met with Mr. Knut Brünjes, the Deputy Director General with responsibility for Trade Policy and Latin America, as well as Dr. Malte Hauschild, the Deputy Head of Division for Latin America.

Ambassador Nicholas continued his visit in the city of Hamburg where he met with the Judge Shunji Yanai, President of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea, who gave an overview of the operations of the Tribunal and also made an appeal for the work of the Tribunal to be more widely publicised throughout the Caribbean region. During a tour of the facilities, Ambassador Nicholas remarked on the multiple benefits that could accrue to countries using the Tribunal to adjudicate on maritime matters. Justice Anthony Lucky, of Trinidad and Tobago, also sits as a member of the Tribunal.

At a reception hosted by Mr. Howard Kroch, Honorary Consul for Trinidad and Tobago in Hamburg, Germany, Nicholas offered a powerful presentation to the 80 plus audience which included 34 Consuls General and Honorary Consuls. Ambassador Nicholas stated that Trinidad and Tobago is a promising state with opportunities for trade and tourism investment. He highlighted the interest of the Government in diversifying the ▸▸

economy and introducing new incentives and programmes to attract investment in new industry.

Ambassador Nicholas met with Executive Directors of HELM AG who discussed the current increase of their stake in Consolidated Energy Ltd (CEL) Trinidad and Tobago from 10.57% to 25%. HELM stated that Trinidad and Tobago is currently their largest methanol source with an export rate of 4.1 million tonnes per annum to the US, and Europe. Ambassador Nicholas raised the potential for the development of the pharmaceuticals manufacture in Trinidad and Tobago. The HELM executives acknowledged that this would be an avenue to explore.

Ambassador Nicholas also met with executives of Ferrostaal GmbH and its new owners Dr. John Schroeder of the MPC Holding Company. A request was made for regarding development of the port and dry-docking facilities and the potential for recycling facilities. Ambassador Nicholas also met with Senior Executives of RWE Dea including the CEO, Mr Thomas Rappuhn. A brief overview of their operations in Trinidad and Tobago was provided with RWE confirming their interest in expanding their portfolio primarily in near shore opportunities and the redevelopment of existing fields where they can apply their EOR expertise. Nicholas and Mr Rappuhn further discussed the role of renewables and its introduction to Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ambassador was treated to a guided tour of the 72 kilometer Port of Hamburg where its advanced terminal logistic and cargo management systems were evident. The Port currently handles approximately 9 million TEUs per annum. In addition to its significant contribution from transhipment operations, the Port of Hamburg also welcomes cruise ships, ushering 500,000 people to Hamburg each year with an average spend of 100 Euros per visitor. Nicholas stated that this was indeed an impressive development, one Trinidad and Tobago could assess for comparative improvement to our port facilities.

***Pictured**: H.E. Garvin Nicholas greets guests at a reception in Hamburg held to commemorate Trinidad and Tobago's anniverssary of Independence*

Ambassador Nicholas also paid a courtesy call on Lord Mayor Dr. Dorothee Stapelfeldt, 2nd Mayor of the Parliament of Hamburg and Head of the Department of Science and Research in Hamburg. Nicholas promoted Trinidad and Tobago as a capital for trade and investment, highlighting diverse areas for investment and partnership including: Education and Research, Sustainable Energy, Medical Tourism and Eco-Tourism.

The Hamburg Chamber of Commerce provided a platform for the Ambassador to share specific opportunities for investment directed to a business investment audience including Dr. Wisskirchen, Regional CEO Northern Germany for Deutsche Bank, and His Excellency Stefan Schlüter, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Trinidad and Tobago. Nicholas presented several opportunities for development of the western peninsula in collaboration with the Chaguaramas Development Authority. Other initiatives proposed include maximising the use of our Technology Park, manufacturing of niche and high end products and tourism related investments including high end hotel, medical and golfing facilities. He also addressed questions of national security, food security, conferencing facilities and conference management, economic stability and the stability of the Trinidad and Tobago dollar on the World Market.

Mr. Jürgen Gevers, General Manager of AVIA Reps

Pictured: 1) *Mr. Howard M.S. Kroch, Honorary Consul for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Hamburg, Germany, Ship Captain Mr. Jensen, H.E. Garvin Nicholas;* ***2)*** *His Excellency dines with Executive Director of Ferrostaal Dr. John Schroeder of the MPC Holding Company- new owner of Ferrostaal GmbH;* ***3)*** *His Excellency stands in front of the Town Hall;* ***4)*** *(L-R) Mr. Peter Schirrmann, President, Latin American Chamber of Commerce, His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, His Excellency Stefan Schlüter, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Howard Kroch, Honorary Consul for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Wisskirchen, Regional CEO Northern Germany for Deutsche Bank.*

Tourism GmbH, the Tourism Development Company's overseas representative for Germany, Netherlands and Belgium also had an opportunity to meet with the Ambassador. Current issues of performance and the identification of future plans to ensure the capitalisation of all investments made by the Ministry of Tourism and the THA were discussed. An offer was made by the Ambassador to assist in the promotion of Trinidad and Tobago in the German speaking territories of Europe with the intention of increasing the arrival numbers of German tourists to our shores each year.

Against the backdrop of strong and longstanding friendly relations between both countries, there was one clear message emanating from these meetings: that there was a real opportunity for increased German investment in Trinidad and Tobago. Ambassador Nicholas used the occasion to review potential areas of new investment in the fields of tourism, including medical tourism, and trade, as well as to expound on the attributes which make Trinidad and Tobago a sound choice for long-term German investment.

T&T ARTIST CAZABON CELEBRATED AT BELMONT HOUSE

In the year of the bicentenary of his birth, Michel Jean Cazabon's life and art were celebrated at a reception at the historic Belmont House on Saturday 6th July, 2013. The event, held under the patronage of the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, UK, featured a viewing of Cazabon's "Harris Collection" which was discovered at Belmont House by Trinidadian curator and conservationist Geoffrey MacLean.

Cazabon, widely regarded as the first great painter of Trinidad and Tobago, is internationally lauded for his 19th century watercolour paintings which depicted the idyllic landscapes and changing society of colonial Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. MacLean, who delivered the feature address, described the pivotal impact of Cazabon's work in depicting the unique history and emerging identity of Trinidad and Tobago.

MacLean detailed the 1999 discovery of the "Harris Collection" of 44 Cazabon paintings, which belonged to Trinidad and Tobago's 11th governor, Lord Harris. The collection was found at his family home on the Belmont Estate. MacLean oversaw the restoration of these paintings, which is now a popular attraction at this historic site.

A lunch of Trinibagonian fare, sponsored by Wendel Clement of Campbell's Framing and Art of South Kensington, was enjoyed by all on a beautiful sunny afternoon in Faversham, Kent. One of the highlights of the afternoon was a reading by award winning writer Lawrence Scott from his critically acclaimed novel "Light Falling on Bamboo". Cazabon's colourful life was the inspiration behind the book, which illustrates the tale of his struggle to navigate the complicated post-emancipation period in Trinidad and Tobago.

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom, expressed his pleasure that Cazabon's work and life story was being celebrated and unveiled to an international audience.

He stated, "It is said that artists exist to show us the world. In this regard, Michel Jean Cazabon was a masterful exemplar. Trinidad and Tobago has spawned many artists who continue Cazabon's legacy of illustrating the identity of our people on canvas. These include Hugh Stollmeyer, Boscoe Holder, LeRoy Clarke and Jackie Hinkson, to name a few. I am continuously impressed by our art community's high level of talent and the tremendous creativity emanating from our shores".

Pictured: H.E. Garvin Nicholas views one of Cazabon's masterpieces

EMANCIPATION CELEBRATIONS AT THE MISSION

Pictured: *The Caribbean Master Drummers greet guests amidst a special exhibition of Emancipation memorabilia*

The atmosphere was euphoric on Wednesday 31st July when the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission hosted its annual Emancipation celebration. The packed audience was buzzing with excitement, as guests were treated to a medley of artistes whose performances brilliantly displayed the vibrancy of Trinidad and Tobago's strong African ancestry.

Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, Acting High Commissioner, relayed a stirring opening speech to the gathered crowd of Trinidadian and Tobagonian nationals. "In Trinidad and Tobago, the beauty of our multi- cultural society is that we all come together to celebrate the triumphs and mourn the struggles of our countrymen, regardless of creed and race," she stated.

Mrs. Bissoon-Deokie paid tribute to the numerous Trinbagonian nationals of African descent who had made profound contributions locally and globally, such as C.L.R. James, Dr. Eric Williams and Audrey Jeffers, as well as George Padmore and Stokely Carmichael who both significantly impacted international race relations. "It is important that we reflect on their stories and achievements," she said, "as they are proof that although we may hail from small islands, we certainly possess the power to effect change on a global scale".

Pictured: *Sheldon Blackman with Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips*

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas joined the proceedings in spirit, as guests were shown a video presentation of Nicholas' outreach trip to Liverpool, where he visited the International Slavery Museum. "What I have seen here has given me a completely new perspective on the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade," he reflected. "To have gone through centuries of the most horrific abuse and to have not only survived, but thrived, shows an extraordinary strength".

The mood of poignant reflection soon turned to one of total jubilation, when the Caribbean Master Drummers took to the stage. The Drummers worked the crowd into a frenzy with the powerful rhythms of their African drums and had guests moving and clapping. The audience was again intensely enthused by the next performer, Ms. Jeanelle Archer, a Trinidadian student. Archer delivered a passionate monologue titled "My Redemption Song", which expressed the struggle and celebration of her African legacy through song and spoken word.

The evening came to a thrilling close with the final performance by Sheldon Blackman. Blackman's robust vocals and lyrics exhorting universal love and victory over oppression struck a deep chord with the audience, who sang along at the top of their voices. Blackman's original songs had the audience enthralled, but his performance of his father Ras Shorty I's legendary tune "Watch out my children" evoked a great sense of nostalgia and unity from the crowd which was extraordinary to witness.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission regularly hosts cultural events, and the Emancipation celebration is one which nationals particularly look forward to. As the evening drew to an end, guests expressed their delight and appreciation for the Mission's fantastic celebration of an important element of Trinidad and Tobago's heritage.

HISTORY OF T&T CARNIVAL ON SHOW AT LONDON'S "SHADES OF CARNIVAL"

Pictured: *H.E. Garvin Nicholas with members of the audience and performers.*

The fascinating history of Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival and its varied cultural influences were showcased through folklore and song at the "Shades of Carnival" event on Thursday 11th July. The event took place at Powis Square in London, England, and was supported by the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, UK. In addressing the audience, High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas highlighted the colourful origins of Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival and the significant global impact of the festival.

"Without a doubt, the highlight of London's summer activities is the Notting Hill Carnival," stated the High Commissioner. "With over 2 million revellers every year, Notting Hill Carnival is the biggest street festival in Europe and I am proud to say that its roots stem from my country's shores. Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago is certainly a festival which offers an experience like nothing else in the world. It is an extraordinary celebration of the vibrant culture and music of various ethnicities untied as one".

The event was also supported by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the City of Westminster, the Carnival Village Trust, the London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprise Trust and the Creative Learning Circuit. Proceedings began with the entrance of the iconic Trinbagonian Carnival character, the Midnight Robber. The character was played by Debora Alleyne De Gazon, the Tobagonian director of the Creative Learning Circuit.

As the Midnight Robber, she regaled the crowd with a story of the spirit of Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival and the amalgamation of French and African influences which spawned the great cultural festival. In addition, the journey of the Carnival from Trinidad and Tobago to the UK and the sense of cohesion and community spirit it fostered were detailed. Traditional Carnival characters Pierrot Grenade and Dame Lorraine also joined the Midnight Robber on stage and enhanced the visual re-telling of the Carnival story.

An enlightening presentation on the steel pan and its journey to England was delivered by Pepe Francis MBE, the Chairman of the British Association of Steelbands (BAS) in England. The event also featured a performance by UK calypsonian Alexander the Great, who illustrated the history of calypso in Trinidad and Tobago and the UK via song. Finally, Mr. Lewis Benn, executive member of the British Association of Sound Systems (BASS) recalled the contribution of the Jamaican community in influencing the sound systems of Notting Hill Carnival.

At the close of the ceremony, High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas noted that such a presentation should be featured at the Opening Ceremony of the 2013 Notting Hill Carnival. This recommendation was met with hearty approval by the Councillors in attendance, who also thanked the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission for its continuous support of Notting Hill Carnival.

DESTRA, HIGH COMMISSIONER TALK CARNIVAL

Pictured: *H.E. Garvin Nicholas hosts soca powerhouse Destra Garcia*

London was hit by an explosion of Caribbean culture, heralding the most exciting event of the year - Notting Hill Carnival, which took place from Friday 23rd August to Monday 25th August 2013. Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival is the main source of inspiration for Notting Hill Carnival, and on Friday 23rd August at 4pm, top soca artiste Destra Garcia was feted by Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner, Garvin Nicholas, at a press reception in the London Mission.

Several London media organisations were present at the event which saw the High Commissioner and Ms. Garcia field questions on the significance of Carnival to Trinidad and Tobago, its influence on Notting Hill Carnival, and the evolution of the cultural art form.

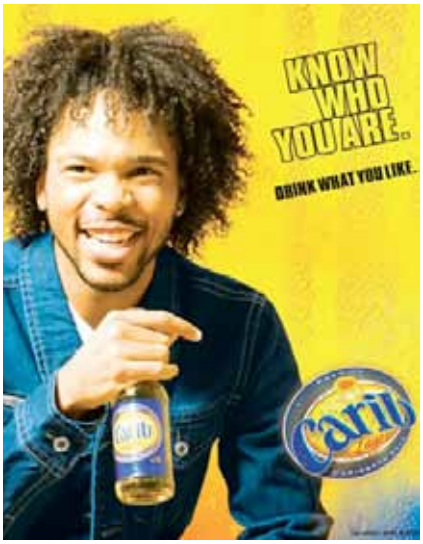
"As High Commissioner, I feel it is imperative that artistes like Destra who fly the flag high internationally are well supported and promoted," said Nicholas. "Soca music is a driving force of our Carnival, and the High Commission seeks to advance the art form via our various cultural events".

The High Commissioner also emphasised the importance of Trinidad and Tobago stakeholders taking more ownership of our Carnival product. "Via the proliferation of Trinidad and Tobago-inspired Carnivals around the world, our culture is exposed on a global scale," he stated. "What we must do now is focus on the branding of our national product, so that people will know that this Carnival which has influenced so many other cultures has its origins in Trinidad and Tobago".

Destra echoed the High Commissioner's sentiments, emphasising the great pride she feels when she shares Trinidad and Tobago's culture with international audiences. "To go abroad and hear people sing your songs and embrace your culture is the greatest feeling," she said. "Seeing how our culture impacts people the world over is amazing".

Destra and the High Commissioner also discussed the criticism that Carnival's evolution from traditional character-driven mas to the bikini and beads style of "pretty mas" has diluted the festival and cultural impact. "Having been engrossed in Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival all my life and seeing its development, I have to say that evolution is a necessary part of life," remarked Destra. "That traditional element is still there, particularly in the different villages of our country. Carnival is market-driven and has evolved to suit the public's taste. What I would like to see is perhaps a mandate that all mas bands designate at least one section in their bands to a portrayal of traditional mas".

The High Commissioner heartily agreed, stating that traditional mas was far from a thing of the past. "Traditional mas is still very much a part of our culture," he stated. "We indoctrinate it in our children. This is apparent every year for Kiddies Carnival which is far more thematic and character driven. When people are old enough to play in adult bands, they choose one type of mas over the other. Certainly, traditional mas remains an important part of our identity".



NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL COMPETITION RESULTS

LONDON CALYPSO TENT - CALYPSO MONARCH RESULTS

The finals of the 2013 London Calypso Tent - Calypso Monarch Competition took place on Thursday 22nd August in front of a packed audience at the Tabernacle, Powis Square. The event which is hosted by the Association of British Calypsonian's who this year turned 21, saw eleven other contestants compete against reigning monarch Sheldon Skeete.

Here are the results as follows:

1. Sheldon Skeete with his calypso *'Send them Afghanistan*'
2. Nikisha with her calypso *'The Power is Yours'*
3. Brown Sugar with her calypso "*Big Brother*

2013 NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL STEEL BAND COMPETITIONS

1. Real Steel: *"Hammer Time"*, arranged by Leroy Clarke
2. Metronomes Steel Orchestra: *"Shock Attack"*, arranged by Annise 'Halfers' Hadeed
3. Mangrove Steel Band: *"Differentology"*, arranged by Andre White
4. Ebony Steelband Trust: *"Tell Dem"* arranged by Samuel DuBois
5. Croydon Steel Orchestra: *"Sapna (The Dream)"* arranged by Paul Dowie

MAS BAND RESULTS

CATERGORY - FUN FANTASY

LARGE	MEDIUM
1. United Colours Of Mas	1. Beeraahaar Sweet Combination
2. Masquerade 2000 / Mk2	2. Tears Mas/Euphoria Mas/Fusion Arts
3. Cocoyea	3. Flagz Mas Band
4. Dragons	4. Bacchanalia

CATERGORY - MODERN CONTEMPORARY

LARGE	MEDIUM
1. Mahogany Carnival Club	1. Sunshine International Arts
2. Elimu Paddington Arts Carnival Bandcocoyea	2. Barbados Carnival Club (Committee)
3. Trini Posse UK	3. Isis Carnival Club
4. South Connections	

Photo courtesy Euphoria Mas Band

Pictured: *Konata Alleyne, soca artiste and Euphoria masquerader Ceylan Gomez.*

UK SOCA MONARCH 2013 GROOVY & POWER

Photo: Duane Jay

Pictured: *Bunji Garlin performs Differentology on Funatik Mas Band truck as they pass the judging point.*

On Friday, 23rd August, the fourth Annual Soca News UK Soca Monarch Competition was held in conjunction with the Next_Level+PoisonUK - Fire Friday Concert which was held at Coronet Theatre in Elephant & Castle featured special guest performances by VP Records' newest signee Bunji Garlin, Lil Rick, Fya Empress, and Orlando Perez.

GROOVY SOCA RESULTS

1. Triniboi Jooice
2. Muzik Lil Muzik
3. Soca Princess

POWER SOCA RESULTS

1. Triniboi Jooice
2. Natia Daniel
3. Soca Princess

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL HEATS UP LONDON TOWN

London was set ablaze with colour on August 25th and 26th, 2013 when masquerades and revellers invaded the streets for Notting HIll Carnival. Well over a million people came out to celebrate Caribbean culture at the largest street festival in the UK. Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival serves as the prime influence, so you can be sure our nationals came out to represent in full force! With blue skies and blazing hot sun, masqueraders could amost pretend they were on the streets of Port of Spain. Enjoy the pics!

__1)__ Mahogany masquerader parades in one of the costume esigns based on the theme of 'Let The Music Play' by Clary Salandy; __2)__ Young masqueraders in costumes from the Mahogany Mas band light up the roads; __3)__ Masqueraders in traditional costume light up the road; __4)__ Mahogany masqueraders parade in front the one of the judging point __5)__ Masqueraders pretty in pink! __6)__ Crowd shot of Pure Lime Chocholate masqueraders; __7)__ Dragons Mas band Masquerader; __8)__ Halima Davis strikes a pose in a patriotic costume in Euphoria Mas; __9)__ Aerial shot of Abir - Colours of life palancing to the left; __10)__ Martin Jay and Funatik Mas band masquerader;

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11) *UCOM mas band front line costumes;*
12) *masquerader from Dragons Mas band kiddies mas section****;*** ***13)*** *Mrs. Kelly Rajpaulsingh, Band leader of Bacchanlia mas band;* ***14)*** *Bacchanlia masqueraders from the section Moken Saru.*

Photos: *Mahogany Mas Band, Darrin DesVignes, Purelime Chocholas mas, Euphoria Mas Band, Abir - Frederique Rapier, Funatik Mas Band - Duane Jay, UCOM - Joseph Young, Bacchanalia - Raid photography*

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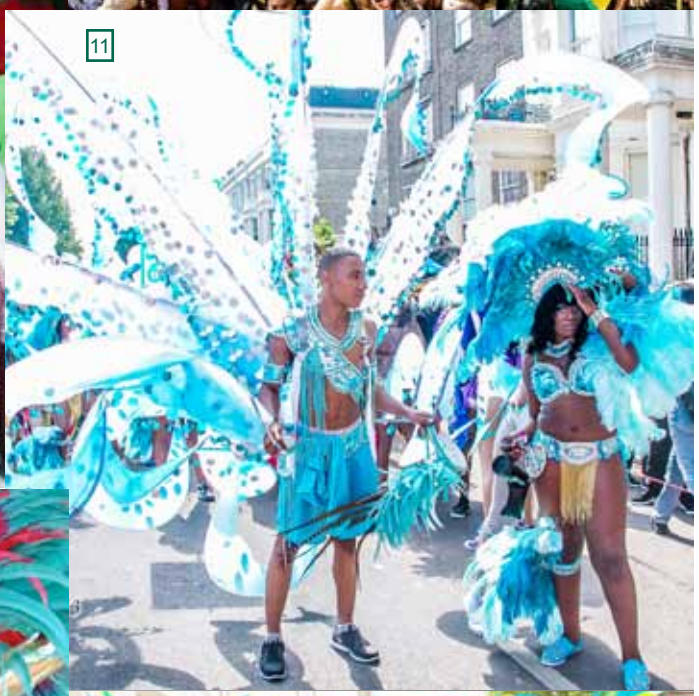

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HIGH COMMISSION LEADS DEVELOPMENT OF HDTC

It has been many years in coming but relief is finally at hand for scores of Trinbagonians suffering from debilitating blood disorders. Trinidad and Tobago will soon open a specialist Haemaglobin Disorders Treatment Centre, based on the internationally-renowned thalassaemia unit at the Whittington Hospital, UK.

The new centre, which will open in Couva later in the year, is the first of its kind in the Caribbean and is set to transform treatment for Trinidad and Tobago's thalassaemia patients.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission led the development of the new centre after first becoming aware of the Whittington unit's expertise ten years ago. In that time, the High Commission has lobbied the country's health ministry for the necessary funding to replicate hospital's unit.

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas stated, "In Trinidad and Tobago we currently have 65 patients, some very young, who are suffering from this devastating blood disorder. Thalassaemia causes mild or severe anaemia, thus patients require continuous access to high quality health care.

The Haemogålobin Disorders Treatment Centre will ensure that these patients no longer need to leave our shores to seek specialist treatment for their condition. I am heartened that our Mission's liaison with the Whittington Hospital will result in this necessary advancement in the standard of health care provided to our citizens".

LITTRIBUTE TO LONDON TTOWN

On Monday 15th July, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission to the UK hosted the book launch of Dr. Kris Rampersad's 'Littscapes', in an event titled "Littribute to London TTown". At the launch, the cultural and social settings of Trinidad and Tobago were examined and illustrated through the timeless words of the islands' local writers and stunning photography depicting the natural scenery.

High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, stated, "The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission is pleased to showcase the work of one of our talented local authors. In 'Littscapes', Dr. Rampersad has brought to light Trinidad and Tobago's rich literary tradition and unique heritage. This event will provide an important platform for highlighting the complex history and fascinating social landscape of Trinidad and Tobago to a British audience".

'LiTTscapes' was launched in Trinidad and Tobago in August 2012 as one of the key publications focusing on the country's 50th Anniversary of Independence. It represents Trinidad and Tobago in words and pictures through some 100 works by some 60 writers, including Earl Lovelace, Sam Selvon, VS Naipaul, Michael Anthony and Derek Walcott.

The evening featured various readings from the book by several specially invited guests, including Trinidadian writer Dr. Lakshmi Persaud, author of 'Butterfly in the Wind', among other works. Dr. Persaud interspersed her reading with lively personal reflections of her time growing up in Trinidad and painted a vivid picture of the island's town and people. Another featured guest was the presenter of 'BBC World Have Your Say', Ros Atkins, who delivered an enlightening perspective of his brief time spent living in Trinidad as a young boy. "One thing that is fascinating about the people of Trinidad and Tobago is your sense of cultural self sufficiency," he declared. "It is a refreshing attitude from a people who are fiercely proud of their culture but do not need validation from an external audience".

Pictured: *Dr. Kris Rampersad with BBC presenter Ros Atkins*

In discussing her inspiration behind producing 'LiTTscapes', Dr. Rampersad said, "As an educator in Trinidad and Tobago, I have witnessed our people grappling with illiteracy and a negative attitude towards reading and education in general. It is my hope that 'Littscapes' can reawaken readers' interest in their surrounding and how they connect to society".

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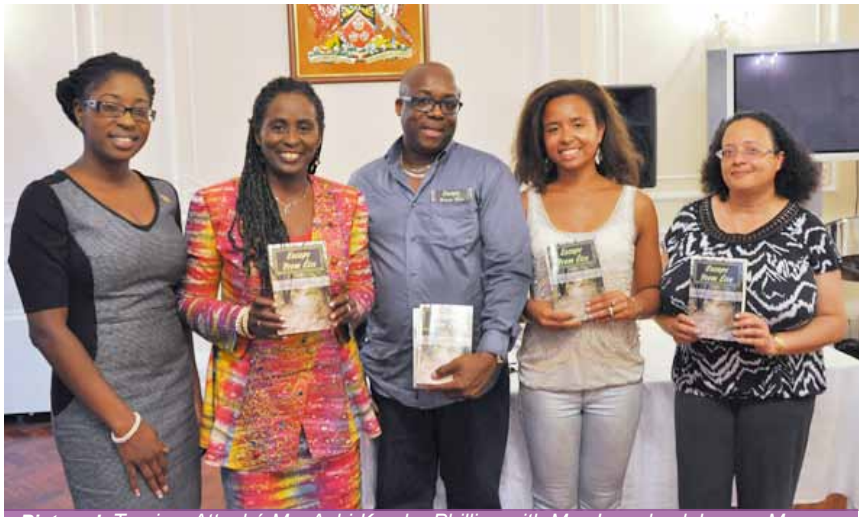

Pictured: *Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips with Ms. Jennylynd James, Mr. Colin Joseph, Ms. James' daughter Tiffany and Dr. Pamela Abbott*

On Wednesday 15th July, Trinidadian writer Jennylynd James introduced a London audience to her memoir, "Escape from Eire". The event was held at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London and took on a refreshing, interactive format, with Ms. James responding to questions on the challenges and triumphs she experienced as a foreigner living and working in Ireland. "Eire", as Ms. James revealed to the audience, is the Gaelic word for "Ireland".

James spoke with a vivacity and enthusiasm often associated with Trinbagonians, and captivated the audience with lively excerpts from her book about the alienation she sometimes felt as an outsider with black skin among the pale crowds of Dublin. "With my very dark brown skin I was a curiosity, a novelty to the city dwellers of Dublin," James declared. "I did not see any other black women as I walked through the city, and I just had to hold my shoulders back and smile at some of the staring faces".

It is this apparent strength of spirit which makes James so relatable and endearing. She detailed her "misadventures" as a Food Scientist who left a lucrative food industry position in Canada to gain unique international experience in Ireland. At that time, Ireland was experiencing an economic boom, which James capitalised on with the launch of her own company, Caribbean Enterprises. Marketing her original Caribbean sauces and seasonings around Ireland soon made James a known figure and her popularity was heightened by a successful 2010 appearance on the Irish version of the hit international show, "Dragon's Den".

James displayed the resilience typical of a Trinbagonian woman as she illustrated the eventual demise of her business, brought on by the 2009 global economic recession. With her signature humour and sense of resiliency, she shared with the audience her difficult decision to escape Ireland for Canada to seek a secure future for herself and her daughter. Ultimately, she left Ireland with her head high, knowing she had made her mark and heightened the profile of Trinidad and Tobago in Ireland via her business ventures.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission regularly hosts events which promote the talent and achievements of its Diaspora. His Excellency Garvin Nicholas stated, "I am pleased that our Mission can provide a space where our talented nationals to share their valuable experiences and perspectives. Our nationals' literary achievements are especially significant, as these works show the world who we are as a people."

T&T STEEL PAN BUSINESS HONOURED IN PARIS

Pictured: (centre) *Receiving the award were Mr Mazzini Gill, Director of Operations and Mr Bevan Garcia, Director of International Business*

The national instrument was once again highlighted on the world stage when Trinidad and Tobago-based Gill's Pan Shop was awarded in the Gold Category at the 2013 International Star for Leadership in Quality (ISLQ) Awards. The ceremony took place at the Paris Palais des Congrés Convention Hall on July 1st, 2013.

Companies from 54 countries were honoured for their achievements in maintaining a high standard of quality in business operations. Jose E. Prieto, President and CEO of Business Initiative Directions, presided over the ceremony, which was attended by outstanding personalities from the business world and diplomatic corps.

Gill's Pan Shop manufactures the steel pan, producing the "Gill's Pan" brand which ships to over 40 countries in 4 continents. Their hand crafted instruments have been gifted to various world leaders, including US President Barack Obama and the Royal family in the United Kingdom.

Receiving the award were Mr Mazzini Gill, Director of Operations and Mr Bevan Garcia, Director of International Business. Gill resides in Curepe, Trinidad while Garcia is a well-known member of the Trinbagonian Diaspora in England. As the organiser of the hugely popular exposé of Trinidad and Tobago's culture at the annual Ip-Art Festival in Ipswich, UK and other cultural events, Garcia is keen to raise the profile of the steel pan on the international stage.

Gill described the award as an achievement not just for his business, but for Trinidad and Tobago. He stated, "This award has created an elevated platform for our team of craftsmen to highlight their unique talent skills on a global forum. We are proud to be in the business of manufacturing the only new acoustic music instrument of the 20th century, the steel pan, and look forward to showcasing it to audiences across the globe".

Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché of the High Commission for Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom, commended Gill and Garcia on their accolade.

"Our national instrument, the steel pan, plays such an integral role in the promotion of our country," she said. "It is important that we preserve the art form by celebrating our crafts men and educating future generations on this valuable element of our culture".

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SURESH RAMBARAN AWARDED QUEEN GOLD MEDAL

Pictured: *Mr. Suresh Rambaran, Queen Gold medal Diamond Jubilee award recipient with Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, First Secretary*

On 18th July 2013, prominent Trinidad and Tobago national Mr. Suresh Rambaran was recognised for his notable contribution to the National Health Service (NHS) and voluntary sector in the United Kingdom. Mr. Rambaran was presented with a Queen Gold medal Diamond Jubilee award at the event which was hosted by the Windrush Nurses and Beyond Foundation at the Dorchester hotel in London.

Mr. Rambaran received the award from Baroness Rosalind Howells of St. Davis in front of an audience which included several Caribbean High Commissioners and other esteemed guests.

In addition to eleven other nurses from the African and Caribbean region, Mr. Rambaran was the only Trinidad and Tobago national to be presented with this honour. Rambaran has been tireless in his commitment to improving the NHS and voluntary sector. Throughout his career he has championed for the enhancement of service provisions that are culturally appropriate for Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) people living in the UK and raising cancer awareness among the BME communities. Mr. Rambaran was nominated for the award by member of the BME community, a testament to his valued work in that respect.

A Cancer Information Specialist, Rambaran's area of specialisation is prostate cancer. Mr. Rambaran is also the founding member and trustee of the charity Cancer Equality. Cancer Equality was created to facilitate the delivery of services to patients with limited mobility, by taking their cultural needs into consideration.

In addition, Rambaran is well known to the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora as the founder of the G&H Tassa Group, the first of its kind in the UK. Rambaran has also taken a leading role in promoting Trinidad and Tobago's culture in the UK. He has been instrumental in bringing many Indo-Trinidadian artistes such as Sundar Popo, Rikki Jai and Drupatee to the UK to tour and perform in cities such as Newcastle, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Luton and London.

First Secretary, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, UK, Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie attended the awards ceremony and was delighted to witness Rambaran's achievement. "I am very pleased to see the accomplishments of one of our nationals being recognised in this forum," she stated. "Mr. Rambaran's contribution to the NHS as well as to minority groups in the UK has made a significant difference to many lives, and he is an outstanding example of positive leadership within the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora".

UPCOMING MISSION EVENTS

OCTOBER

19th: Eid-ul-Adha Celebrations
30th: Nationals' Meeting

NOVEMBER

2nd: Divali Celebrations
27th: Nationals' Meeting

DECEMBER

TBA: Young Professionals' Networking Meeting

** Events will be added and updated to the High Commission's website:* ***www.tthighcommission.co.uk***

Make sure to register as a national either by email or in the High Commission to keep abreast of our exciting events!

SEPTEMBER NATIONALS' MEETING

After a break due to Emancipation and Independence celebrations, the monthly Nationals' Meeting returned with a bang on September25th.

The forum took on a panel debate style, with nationals participating in a lively discussion on hot topics affecting Trinidad and Tobago, such as the decriminalisation of marijuana, capital punishment and local elections.

Stimulating discussion ensued, with our nationals once again proving that regardless of physical distance, they remain concerned and attuned with the events and occurences affecting their homeland.

***Pictured:** Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips oversees the panel debate*

MISS TOBAGO WINS MISS T&T UK 2013

On Saturday 28th September, members of the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora in London were treated to a night of beauty and glamour when Carivog International presented the 11th annual Miss Trinidad and Tobago UK pageant. Titled the 'Grand Final and Cultural Showcase', the ceremony was the culmination of months of training for the 5 finalists, with entertainment provided in the form of a steel pan performance by Debora Romaine and dance numbers by Muraldo DC.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission was represented by Tourism Attaché, Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, who awarded trophies to winning delegates in areas such as 'Miss Website Queen', among others.

Pictured: *Miss Karimah Farrel*

Ultimately, the night belonged to Miss Tobago, Karimah Farrel, who was crowned the 2013 Miss Trinidad and Tobago UK. An accomplished ballet singer and full time student of the performing arts, the beauty impressed the judges with her poise and eloquence. For Ms. Farrel, the win is an important milestone and provides her with an invaluable platform to pursue her dreams of putting Trinidad and Tobago on the map by becoming a successful actress and performer.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission wishes Ms. Farrel a very successful reign. We know she will do a wonderful job of promoting Trinidad and Tobago on the international stage!

Pictured: *Miss Karimah Farrel, 2013 Miss Trinidad and Tobago UK (seated) is flanked by 3rd place contestant Shani Robertson (left), runner up Natalia Ramnarine (right) and Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips (far right)*

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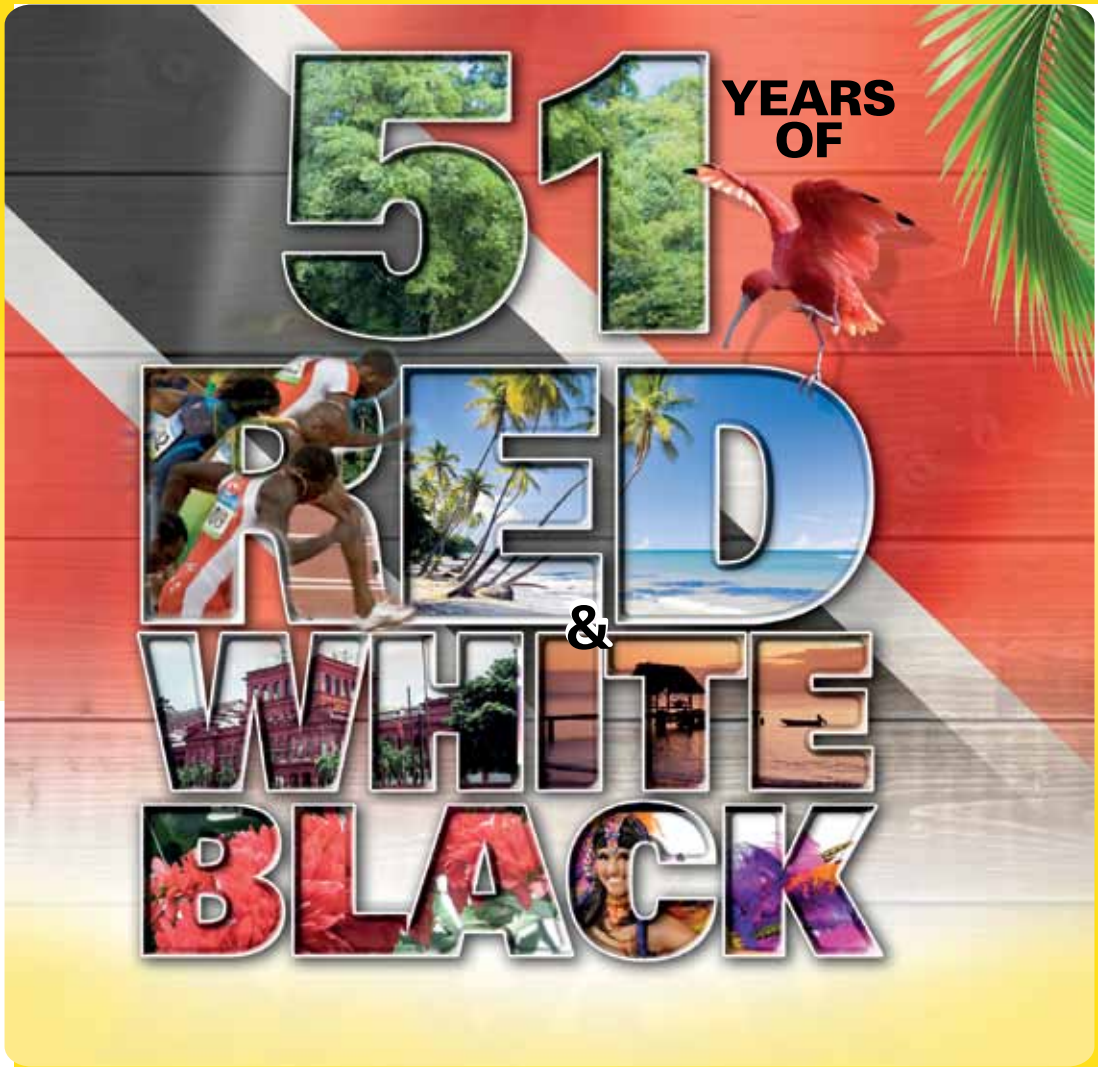
*Pictured: **1)** The High Commissioner makes the presentation to London Calypso Tent - Calypso Monarch Competition winner Sheldon Skeete; **2)** The High Commissioner with Public Affairs Officer Mrs. Beverley Awonaya at the Independence Diplomatic Reception; **3)** The High Commissioner at the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, Germany, with Tribunal President Shunji Yanai (right); **4)** A cross section of the audience at the Emancipation Day celebrations at the Mission*



We're sending heartfelt congratulations to
Trinidad and Tobago
as you celebrate your
51st year of Independence.
May you as a people keep moving forward for the betterment of sweet T&T.

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